

**THE LITERACY TEST FOR IMMIGRANTS.**

Chairman Burnett, of the House Committee on Immigration, has issued a statement expressing his belief that the bill introduced during the last session providing for a literacy test for incoming aliens will become a law before the end of the present Congress. While there may be some doubt as to the outcome of Chairman Burnett's forecast, there is very little doubt

SOUTH CAROLINA M  
TION.

### THE HIGH COST OF ELECTORAL VOTES

The thing to do, he declares, is to enlarge the social life of the people in the rural districts. Schools must be consolidated; the little red school-house, with its underpaid teachers and meagre curriculum, must give way to the school which is at the same time a community social centre. At these larger schools better farming, music, sewing, cooking and many other in-

THE VIRGINIA INTERURBAN.

## WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS?

What makes Christmas is the gentle emotions. No symbol or ceremony can take the place of right feeling. If this is gone from the sad world, then the old Christmas has gone, and all the other substantial things have gone. If any one can believe so terrible a thing, let him draw a long face and go off by himself to celebrate his own loss of the true vision of life. Now is the time to begin tending the heart to the finer belief in Christmas. If you are old, the children are not, and while they give love with splendid lavishness, you can rejoice with them.

South Carolina evidently has not had enough of Bismarck, but the Governors Conference has.

**From the Hickeyville Clarion.**

Wide Awake Hose Company was called out last Wednesday. Enos Hand's celluloid collar had took fire while he was sitting in the sun.

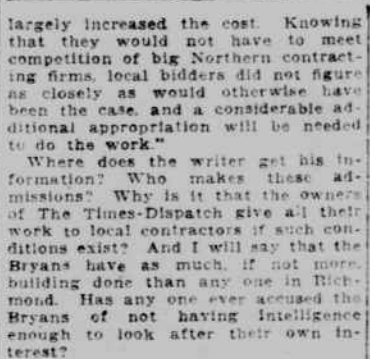
Elmer Jones went over to West Hickeyville Tuesday to see William Jennings Bryan change cars. Hank Tumma has bought a nickel's worth of washers to drop in the horseless piano at the Golden Nugget Buffet.

Lem Whippa is getting pretty well acquainted down to the city. He can call three bartenders and one policeman by their first names. Elmer Jones says there is a swell lot of trimmers in the millinery stores down to the city, and he knows, for he is an epicure.

## Voice of the People

## Abe Martin

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Written. Such statements are doing the contractors of Richmond an irreparable injury, and is certainly not in keeping with the community interest speech I heard Mr. Bryan make at the Chamber of Commerce banquet at the Jefferson Hotel. H. L. MATTHEWS.

rets than anything appearing in its columns should have been construed by the builders and their allied interests of Richmond as a reflection upon their honesty, ability or workmanship. The Times-Dispatch believes that the builders of Richmond are able to compete on equal terms with any in the country, and for this reason it is regretted to see the construction of two of the city's recent important office buildings given to Northern contractors. But The Times-Dispatch feels that the character and standing of Richmond contractors, no matter how high, would not justify the city of Richmond arbitrarily limit-

Virginia has suffered and Richmond has suffered from too narrow a view of the grounds on which public servants ought to be chosen, and that which has proved unwise for a State and a city in the matter of elective officials can very well prove unwise in the matter of giving contracts.

The Times-Dispatch admires and approves the builders of Richmond as a body, and shall not lose its admiration nor withdraw its approval.

**Against Electrocution of Claude Allen.**  
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch.  
Sir—I am a reader of The Times-Dispatch and I am writing this letter written in regard to Claude Allen, as to whether he should be electrocuted or not. Two vital questions that present themselves to my mind are these: Is Claude Allen guilty of the crime for which he is being put to death? and if he is guilty, is the theory of conspiracy to shut up the court been proven? These questions cannot be answered by any angry, inflamed, public sentiment, nor be the answer to be found in the hasty, impulsive arguments of the prosecution. The answer to these questions lies in the appeal for their solution to the sober-minded, reasoning, thinking citizens of Virginia. That there was a terrible tragedy enacted in the courtroom at Hillsville on March 14, 1912, there is no doubt, and that the perpetrators of this crime should be justly punished, no one will question. Almost

immediately after the affair, the whole country was filled with newspaper accounts of the tragedy. These articles were extravagant, excited, and in many respects incorrect, and all of them embittered against the Aliens, whom they termed the Alien clan, the Alien gang, the Alien mob, the Alien slaves, and the effect of these articles was to so excite and inflame public sentiment that every one was crying out for the blood of the Aliens to avenge the deaths of those who lost their lives in the terrible massacre recently perpetrated at this time. A cry of an inflamed, maddened public sentiment, and while this state of affairs still existed, the Aliens were being tried in the Wethersville court. Claude Ailsa was first tried for the murder of Judge Bolen, and after the jury had heard the evidence, and listened to all the evidence, among which was that of Judge Bolen stating that he saw Claude Alien shoot at the judge, listened to the forcible argument of prosecuting attorneys, listened to the instructions of the court, then after some discussion, and found Claude guilty of murder in the second degree.

Surely the State must have failed to prove the theory of conspiracy, for it has been shown that point, then the jury would have returned a verdict of murder in the first degree. This did not satisfy such a state of public sentiment nor did it satisfy the prosecuting attorney, who seemed possessed with a mania for the conviction of the Allen's so Claude was at once put on trial for the murder of W. M. Foster. This jury, after hearing all that could be brought against Claude, could not find him

Against Claude could not be had. Claude was tried the first time, but Claude seemed to be first acquitted for conviction, so he was arraigned the third time and tried again for the murder of W. M. Foster, so that we see that Claude Allen was tried three times for the murder of his neighbor. Why was he convicted by the third jury? Was there any new or stronger evidence before that jury than before the first or second jury? I believe not nor was the evidence any more convincing than before the first. Many people seem to think that because a jury has convicted a prisoner in the bar that this fact makes it right, and that there should be no alternative. Why not uphold a conviction to the first jury if the evidence was any more than the men who composed the first jury were less capable of weighing and applying evidence than those composing the last jury? Is there not a question of doubt as to which of the two juries was the most competent to weigh the evidence before them?

Now that eight months have passed and the dark cloud of public sentiment has partially disappeared, and the people begin to think and to reason and to see things as they really existed prior to and at the time of the tragedy, we find a great change in public sentiment and a great cry for executive clemency for Claude Allen. The terms, the Allen clan, the Allen gang, the

Carroll County outlaws, never were in existence in Carroll County before the Hillville affair, and the Allens do not deserve such epithets. They were a family of mountain people, mostly illiterate; they were a brave-hearted people, full of the spirit of self-defense. They were not, as some would have it, to be compared to the Jameses or Youngers; they were neither rob-

was not murder, and the young Claude did not only inherit this character of bravery and self-defense, but he had been raised and tutored under the influence of it, and he thought it his God-given duty to defend himself and his kin, and especially to defend his father, when he saw him under the fire of Ixter Galt's automatic revolver. Many witnesses testify to the good character of Claude as a school-boy, and as a young man, he has

posed character of Claude as a school boy and as a young man. He had never been in court on any charge and we were in belief that he told the truth when he said he was the witness shot. "When I seen em shooting at pop I shot at them." Why not give Claude credit for being plucky enough and truthful enough to come into court and tell the court that he shot four times and his pistol hung. He said he shot, told the court he shot and why he shot. We have noticed that some law writers seem to think that every man that writes in favor of a commutation of sentence is an Alien sympathizer and does not believe in the supremacy of the law, but I am not writing this article in that spirit as is the spirit of the most heartily patriotic of the law. The supremacy of the law, not as a rule, believe in the higher courts reversing the decisions of the lower courts. Nor do I believe in executive clemency in undeserved cases; but it is not a fact that the verdict of a jury is not, but it is facile evidence of justice. It is not it happened then. I can't explain that the verdict was very has proven to be injustice when some one other than the prisoner, has confessed to the crime for which the prisoner was convicted.

then juries may be in error and the prisoner entitled to the doubt.

This article is written only in behalf of Justice and not in sympathy with the Aliens. I do not believe that it has been proven that Claude Allen committed a wilful, premeditated murder. I do not believe he should be electrocuted.

A SOUTHWEST VIRGINIAN.

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

Japan and Russia.  
Which has the stronger navy now  
Japan or Russia? H. S. W.  
Japan.

**Negro and Indian.**  
Has not the Indian race had a much contact with the whites as the negroes have had? Has not the negro shown himself superior in capacity to profit by such contact?

MARY SMITH.

The Indian has had longer contact with the whites than the negroes, but it has been contact of far less intimate and intelligent character. For the purpose of comparison of results it would have to be reckoned that the position of the negroes has been infinitely more favorable to development than that of the Indians. About the date of the settlement of our country here, we generally find that the white, the colored and the red man were introduced in his native tribal life, far superior to the average African tribesman in humanity and religious development and advancement in some of the arts. One unanswerable argument in favor of the negro is that cannibalism seems not to have been practiced among them, although some of the rites of the Southern Indians were by no means lacking in cruelty. Whether the red men would, under some circumstances, have advanced in civilization with the whites or have by now made the same progress as the black men is a question. The likelihood is that now the negro is considerably in advance of the Indian in all the arts of peace. There is no reliable data of any very rapid increase in the number of the negroes, but the multiplying of the reds is

**Capital Punishment.**  
Has capital punishment been abolished in France or the United States. Can you inform me what per cent of life sentences are served out?

Not in France. In five of the States of the United States. Two others abolished and soon restored. There is no reliable information. Probably a very small percentage.

Mr. Carnegie.

2 East Ninety-First Street, New York City is his address. Just what a "direct" address may be we do not know.

**Query Letters.**

W. R. E. writes for information about cattle ships. If he ever reads the Query Column, he must have seen that letters must be signed with the names of the writers. M. O. M. asks about a coin, but she is no name. E. H. makes a suggestion as to the initials and gives no name. Dora asks for a receipt, and "Dora" is all she signs.

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